

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, line 1, delete the title "Description"

Page 1, before line 5, the paragraph beginning with "The invention relates" insert the following titles and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2004/052882, filed on 9 November 2004. Priority is claimed on the following application(s): Country: Germany, Application No.: 103 59 236.9, Filed: 17 December 2003 the content of which is incorporated here by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention --

Page 1 before line 14, the paragraph beginning with "Power output", insert the following title:

-- 2. Description of Prior Art --

Page 1, before line 28, the paragraph beginning with "Therefore, it is an", insert the following title:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Therefore, it is an~~ An object of the invention to provide a testing of the power output stages, so that in the case of a short circuit, the operating voltage is switched off or not even switched on in the first place, and the power output stage and the on-board electrical system are thus protected against damage. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

-- This object is achieved in the case of the arrangement according to the invention by ~~virtue of the fact that~~ a control device ~~is provided~~, which switches respectively one or respectively simultaneously a plurality of the semiconductor switches of a power output stage into the on state according to a predetermined program and in the process tests whether the respective voltages at the outputs respectively lie within a predetermined tolerance range for the respective switching state. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~One development of the invention consists in the fact that the~~ The feeds to the windings can be interrupted with the aid of further switches. As a result of the isolation of the windings with the aid of the further switches, respectively one to all of the upper semiconductor

switches or one to all of the lower semiconductor switches can be simultaneously controlled into the on state, so that a precise fault analysis is possible. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 32, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~One advantageous refinement~~ According to one embodiment of the invention, ~~consists in the fact that~~ the windings of the motor form a star connection, and ~~that~~ the further switches are arranged at the star point and in the feed lines[[,]] from the outputs to the windings. Although other controllable switches are also suitable for the arrangement according to the invention, ~~it is preferably provided in the case of the arrangement according to the invention that~~ the further switches are relays in the preferred embodiment. The invention can also be applied to delta-connected windings. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Since the operating voltage of the power output stages is generally significantly higher than that of microprocessors or digital signal processors, ~~in one advantageous refinement of the arrangement according to~~ a further embodiment of the invention ~~provision is made of~~ includes connections of the outputs of the half-bridges and of the operating voltage to inputs of window comparators via voltage dividers. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~In one development of the arrangement according to the invention, testing~~ Testing without an overloading of the power output stage and of the devices for voltage supply is possible by virtue of the fact that a controllable switch is provided in the feed line of the operating voltage, a resistor being connected in parallel with said controllable switch, and in that the controllable switch can be controlled by the control device. As an alternative, in the case of the arrangement according to the invention it may be provided that the pulses serving for testing are so short that no overloading of the semiconductor switches takes place and, moreover, the load is not influenced or is only imperceptibly influenced during the testing. --

Page 4, before line 11, the paragraph beginning with "The invention permits", insert the following title:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~The invention permits numerous embodiments. One of them is illustrated schematically in the drawing and described below.~~ The sole Figure is a schematic diagram of a power output stage connected to windings of a motor according to an embodiment of the present invention. --

Page 4, before line 14, the paragraph beginning with "In the case of", insert the following title and paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The operating voltage Ubat is fed to an input 16, and is fed as U+ via a relay 17 to the power output stage. Connected in parallel with the relay 17 is a current limiting resistor 18, via which an electrolytic capacitor 19 having a high capacitance can be charged, the relay 17 only being switched on if the voltage U+ approximately corresponds to the voltage Ubat. An impermissibly high charging current surge is thus avoided. Details concerning this known circuit for avoiding a high charging current surge are explained in DE 100 57 156 A1. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The arrangement furthermore comprises a control device 20, which is known as such in connection with power output stages, is formed by a microcomputer or a digital signal processor and as such need not be explained in any greater detail for an understanding of the invention. Outputs of the control device 20 are connected to a drive circuit 21, which generates control signals HS1, HS2, HS3, LS1, LS2, LS3 for the MOSFETs 1 to 6. Analog/digital converters 20' connected to window comparators are furthermore connected to the control device 20, and voltages generated by a respective voltage divider 22, 23, 24, 25 can be fed to the inputs of said

the converters 20'. The voltage dividers 22-25 have significantly higher resistance values than the windings 13, 14, 15 in order not to impair the efficiency of the output stage during operation. In addition, coils of the relays 31, 32 are connected to outputs of the control device 20. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

-- During the first test, with contacts of the relay 31 ~~which are~~ initially open, the MOSFETs 1 to 6 are not driven, so that the output 10 carries the voltage $U+/2$, which is checked in the control device 20 whilst taking account of a predetermined tolerance. If the output 10 has a voltage within the predetermined tolerance ~~this is the case~~, it can be deduced from this that no short circuit to ground 27 or operating voltage $U+$ is present in the MOSFETs 1, 2 and in the feed line up to the relay 31. ~~In the case where the power output stage is free of faults, the~~ The MOSFETs 3 to 6 are also not in the on state during this first test, so that when the contacts of the relay 31 are subsequently closed via the windings 13 to 15 of the motor, the voltages at the outputs 11, 12 are connected to the output 10 via windings 13-15 of the motor. If the power output stage is free of faults, the voltage at the outputs 11, 12 should likewise lie within the an average tolerance range, which is tested by the control device 20. --

Page 7, amend the title as follows:

-- Patent Claims What is Claimed is: --